

NOTE ON THE GENUS KRAMERIA IN CALIFORNIA

WILLIS LINN JEPSON

It has been known for long that the genus *Krameria* is represented in California by two desert species, *K. parvifolia* Benth. and *K. Grayi* Rose & Painter (*K. canescens* Gray.). These two species parallel each other closely, the differences being essentially complementary. While the features of unlikeness as usually indicated in texts are few and relate to the number of bracts on the pedicels (a somewhat variable character) and the distribution of the barbs on the spines, there are, aside from these points, other valuable differentiae. In *Krameria parvifolia* the sepals are ascending, with the result that the flower presents an aspect different from that of *Krameria Grayi*. In the latter species the sepals are somewhat reflexed or recurving, or at least spreading, the lateral pair curving backwards and upwards in such a way as to approximate the backward-curving upper pair, while the lower sepal is descending. In the two species the pairs of glands on the lower side of the flower occupy the same position and are similar in size but unlike in detail. In *Krameria parvifolia* the gland consists of a series of laterally united cylindrical processes which may be likened to a sort of flattened Roman fascis. In *Krameria Grayi* the gland is circular, flattened, all over regularly papillose and very shortly stalked on the under side. In both species the glands are purple. In their leading characters the two species are very similar in every way and make a well-marked and closely distinctive aggregate. This fact has interest in connection with the geographic range. *Krameria Grayi* occurs in both the Colorado and Mohave deserts and ranges east to New Mexico and south to old Mexico and Lower California. *Krameria parvifolia* has the same distribution unless it be less widely distributed in old Mexico.

In a more recent period another species, *Krameria glandulosa* Rose & Painter, based typically on specimens from El Paso, Texas, has been recognized as growing in the California deserts. By J. F. Macbride this was reduced to varietal rank under *Krameria parvifolia* in 1918 (*Contrib. Gray Herb.* 56:52). In the eastern Mohave Desert several new stations for *K. glandulosa* have lately been reported by Miss Mary Beal, a plant lover dwelling in the midst of the desert. If the habit of the shrub is markedly distinctive as pointed out by Miss Beal, this feature in connection with the flower characters may justify the retention in specific rank of *K. glandulosa*. The peduncles and outer sepals are stipitate-glandular and the ovary glands are crimson.

THE VISIT OF THE RURIK TO SAN FRANCISCO

A publication from the Stanford University Press by August C. Mahr is entitled: *The Visit of the "Rurik" to San Francisco in 1816*. Though written for historians this book of Dr. Mahr will prove very interesting to botanists, too, particularly those of the San Francisco